

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10

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R 161249Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7196

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10483

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SOPN, IN

SUBJ: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE: INDIAN VIEWS AND "GUEST"  
PARTICIPATION

1. EMBOFF WHO WILL BE ASSISTING EMBASSY COLOMBO FOR NAC (HINES) AND POLCOUNSELOR CALLED ON MEA UN DIRECTOR VERMA JULY 15 TO REVIEW INDIAN VIEWS ON CONFERENCE. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFFS COMMENTS ON US DESIRE FOR MORE BALANCED LANGUAGE AT COLOMBO ON KOREA, VERMA SAID HE WOULD SUGGEST IN HIS POLICY MINUTE TO FONSEC THAT INDIA SUPPORT ELIMINATION OF REFERENCE TO NORTH KOREAN POSITION IN DECLARATION APPROVED AT ALGERIAN NACC MEETING LAST MONTH. QUESTION OF REMOVAL OF REFERENCES TO FOREIGN TROOPS IN SOUTH KOREA, HOWEVER, IS MORE DIFFICULT AND EMBASSY DOUBTS INDIANS WOULD BE WILLING TO TOUCH THAT ONE, WHICH RELATES TO BASIC NAM CRITERIA.

2. ON MIDDLE EAST, VERMA SAID GOI WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO RESIST LANGUAGE STRONGER THAN THAT IN ALGIERS NACC DECLARATION RELATING TO SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL. HE  
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DOUBTED THE UGANDA INCIDENT WOULD PROMPT HARDENING OF CURRENT

LANGUAGE. GENERAL INDIAN POSITION, HOWEVER, IS TO SUPPORT ARABS ON PALESTINE QUESTION AND THIS WILL GUIDE INDIAN ACTIONS.

3. ON PUERTO RICO, VERMA SAID THAT INDIANS WOULD BE PERFECTLY HAPPY TO SEE THE SUBJECT DROPPED FROM THE NON-ALIGNED DECLARATION BUT THERE WAS A CERTAIN MOMENTUM WHICH PAST REFERENCES GAVE TO CONTINUING INCLUSION. VERMA THOUGHT THAT THE LANGUAGE OVER THE LAST TWO YEARS HAD PROGRESSIVELY BEEN SOFTENED AND SAID THE INDIANS HAD PLAYED A LARGE PART IN ACHIEVING THIS. GOI WAS AWARE OF THE REAL SITUATION IN PUERTO RICO BUT WERE NOT PREPARED TO SINGLE-HANDEDLY TAKE ON THIS SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT THERE MIGHT WELL BE NUMEROUS COUNTRIES IN THE NAM WHICH WOULD PRIVATELY AGREE WITH THE US ON THE PUERTO RICAN ITEM, BUT ALMOST NONE OF THEM WERE PREPARED TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED. COMMENT: WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO "CALL" VERMA AND HIS SUPERIORS ON THIS ISSUE. IF THERE ARE OTHERS IN THE NAM WHO WE CAN IDENTIFY AS WILLING TO MAKE AN ISSUE OUT OF THE PUERTO RICAN ITEM IN OPPOSITION TO CUBA, WE WOULD LIKE TO PASS THIS ON TO THE INDIANS (AND TO SUGGEST TO DEPARTMENT THAT THESE OTHER COUNTRIES BE ASKED TO PRESS INDIA DIRECTLY AT THE NAC ON DROPPING PUERTO RICAN ISSUE.).

4. VERMA SAID THAT THE INDIANS THOUGHT THE SRI LANKAN DRAFT DECLARATION FOR THE COLOMBO NAC WAS GENERALLY GOOD AND HAD NO MAJOR PROBLEMS WITH IT OTHER THAN WITH THE ECONOMIC SECTIONS WHICH WERE DRAFTED IN A HURRY AND NEEDED SUBSTANTIAL REVISION.

5. WHILE EMBOFFS DID NOT PRESS VERMA ON THE QUESTION OF "GUESTS" AT THE NAC, THE GOI POSITION COMES THROUGH CLEARLY IN AN ARTICLE BY AUTHORITATIVE HINDU CORRESPONDENT G.I. REDDY ON JULY 14. REDDY EXPRESSES STRONG INDIAN INDIGNATION AT A TACTICAL DECISION REPORTEDLY TAKEN BY THE ALGERIAN CHAIRMAN OF THE NACC PERMREPS IN NEW YORK TO AUTHORIZE SRI LANKA TO INVITE ROMANIA, PORTUGAL, AUSTRALIA AND PHILIPPINES AS "GUESTS" TO THE NAC, DESPITE DECISION AT ALGIERS NACC MEETING TO DEFER THIS ISSUE UNTIL AUGUST 12-14 FONMIN MEETING IN COLOMBO.

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ALGERIAN DECISION, ACCORDING TO REDDY, WAS BASED ON FACT THAT PLENARY MEETING OF NAM FONMINS AT LIMA HAD AGREED TO SEAT THE FOUR COUNTRIES AS "GUESTS" AT THAT MEETING AND DECISION OF FONMIN PLENARY COULD NOT BE OVERTURNED BY NACC IN ALGIERS. REDDY WRITES THAT THIS IS AN EFFORT TO TURN ONE-TIME GUEST PARTICIPATION INTO PERMANENT INVITATION WHICH WAS NOT ENVISAGED AT LIMA AND IS UNACCEPTABLE TO "SOME COUNTRIES."

6. THE YUGOSLAV MINISTER IN DELHI TELLS US THAT HE UNDERSTANDS INVITATIONS TO THE FOUR "GUEST" STATES WHICH ATTENDED THE LIMA NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING ARE INDEED BEING SENT BUT THAT IT WILL BE UP TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS IN COLOMBO TO CONFIRM THE INVITATIONS. YUGOSLAV DID NOT THINK THAT ROMANIA (FOR ONE) WOULD SEND ITS FOREIGN MINISTER TO COLOMBO UNTIL THE INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE AUGUST MEETING. THE AUSTRALIANS IN DELHI TELL US THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT EVEN PRELIMINARY INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE GOA.  
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